

Gazette Times

Kids' fishing derby held at Cutsforth Park



It was a beautiful day at Cutsforth Park for the 13th annual fishing derby. -Photo by Bobbi Gordon.



Wee Fisher winner Urijah Wedding. -Contributed photo.

The 13th annual youth fishing derby, hosted by Morrow County Parks, was held June 2 at the Cutsforth Park pond. It was a brisk morning when people started arriving to grab their spot around the pond in hopes of landing a big one during the derby.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocked the pond for the special



Pee Wee Fish winner Liam Rankin. -Contributed photo.

event on June 1 and the gate was closed soon after to make sure the fish were there for the youth the next day. With a whistle at 8:30 a.m., the lines and bobbers could be seen splashing down in the water and it was not long before you could hear the squeals of excitement as a fish was being reeled in to shore.

A total of 48 participants ages 14 and under, turned in a total of 74 fish



Junior Fisher winner Brody McDaniel. -Contributed photo.

between 8:30 and 11 a.m., with the average fish length being about twelve inches.

Fish winners this year: Wee Fisher (ages 0-5) was Urijah Wedding with a fish



Senior Fisher winner Halle Gribskov. -Contributed photo.

measuring 16 ¼ inches; Junior Fisher (ages 6-10) was Brody McDaniel with a fish also measuring 16 ¼ inches; Senior Fisher (ages 11-14) went to Halle Gribskov with a fish 16 ½ inches long and Pee Wee Fish (smallest legal fish) was Liam Rankin with his 8 ½ inch fish.

Water was provided to make sure everyone stayed hydrated on the warm day and lunch of coffee, lemonade, hot dogs and chili was available for participants and family members.

Local businesses and individuals donated prizes and awards for all of the fishermen.

Colts Café opens in Heppner



Amanda Wilson (center), pictured with Barbara Wilson (right) and Amanda's husband, Michael, is the new owner/operator of Colts Café. -Photo by Bobbi Gordon.

Amanda Wilson is the new owner and operator of the Colts Café that opened Apr. 16 in Heppner. She had the opportunity to open the restaurant after Sweet Productions closed and managed to get everything done and open within seven days.

Wilson, along with her mother-in-law, Barbara Wilson, operate the café from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. Amanda Wilson stated, "We do it all ourselves with some friends volunteering to help out here and there."

Amanda said she grew up in Hermiston, but has lived in Heppner for about four years. She has always wanted to open her own res-

taurant as she has worked in restaurants for 20 years, cooking for 16 of those years. She said she opens and closes every day as well as taking time out to drive a school bus and do home health care.

The restaurant menu features the American food serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast items include omelets, biscuits and gravy, French toast and hot cakes. Lunch has burgers, salads and sandwiches. Dinner adds chicken fried steak and hamburger steak dinners. Fish and chips and chicken strips are also available.

Colts serves homemade baked goods. Amanda said,

"The cherry fudge cake is very popular." They make cinnamon rolls, dinner rolls, biscuits, cakes, pies and cookies all from scratch. At this time the maple bars are the only thing they don't make from scratch, but they will be doing that soon.

Suspicious death occurs in Heppner

The Gazette-Times has learned of a suspicious death that occurred in Heppner the morning of June 5. According to a source, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call concerning the death around 7:23 a.m. Tuesday.

The students at Heppner Junior/Senior High School were out and about doing community service projects on May 17. One-hundred seventy participating students could be seen around Heppner and Lexington at the parks, cemeteries, city offices, day cares, schools, museums, senior center, golf course and assisted living to name a few.

Projects included working in kitchens, painting, weeding, gardening, cleaning gutters, washing windows, picking up trash and general cleanup. They even built a gazebo, painted picnic tables and removed trees.

John Edmundson provided the following list of students participating in projects: Ethan Akers, Hayley Akers, Tiffany Ak-



Reiah Waite and Christian Dubry doing cleanup at Willow Creek Assisted Living during the Mustang Mop Up.

ers, Mason Alleman, Harley Anderson, Logan Angel, Madison Ashbeck, Tucker Ashbeck, Amelia Baker, Kaytlin Bloom, Xavier Bohanon, Kylie Boor, Zach Bredfield, Carson Brosnan,

Conor Brosnan, Trinity Bunce, Logan Burrigton, Blake Carter, Tyler Carter, Charles Cason, Suzy Cas-

son, Julio Castellanos, Alex Caven, Alison Cecil, Hailey Cimmiyotti, Cassidy Cimmiyotti, Drew Coe, Bryan Collins, Roy Collins, Madison Combe, Morgan Correa, David Cribbs, Jace Currin, Alexis Cutsforth, Coby Dougherty, Mackenzie Dowell, Dillan Doyle, Kameron Drury, Christian Dubry, Jocelyn Dubry, Stephanie Dubry, Dakota Durfey, Ed Ellsworth, Reno Ferguson, Sage Ferguson, Zach Ferguson,

Hanna Finch, Sam Finch, Casey Fletcher, Cody Fletcher, Stephanie Fudala, Keegan Gibbs, Za-

-See MOP UP/PAGE ??

Wildfire exercise plans for emergencies

Federal, State and Local agencies come together for day-long hazards training and coordination session

If a wildfire was burning out of control and threatening Blakes Ranch east of Heppner, multiple agencies and emergency groups would be involved, and those groups would need to work together during the fire. Their job performance just got a little better recently following a day-long "Wildfire Tabletop Exercise" held May 10 in Heppner.

A room full of personnel from such diverse groups as the US Forest Service to the County Health Department sat down and went through what each would do if an out of control wildfire threatened Blakes Ranch. Although the simulation used a wildfire and the Blakes location, the skills learned during the simulation could be used in many different types of hazards and emergency situations.

In the simulated exercise, the fire started with a pre-dawn lighting strike in the Fossil area on state of Oregon land. The conditions were described as 83 degrees with 21 percent relative humidity and 3-10 mph winds. It is August and there is a high fire danger with low moisture in the woods. There are other fires reported in the area and agencies are getting lots of calls from the public.

With the "table set" for the simulated fire, the room then broke up into groups with each agency discussing their role and reaction to the blaze. From the Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service and local departments coordinating firefighting resources to



Local Fireman Steve Rhea gives the opening welcome at a Wildfire Tabletop Exercise held recently in Heppner. The exercise was a training session for local agencies and groups to plan for what to do in case of an emergency. -Photo by David Sykes

the Sheriff's Office arranging for traffic control and evacuation, each group then came back into session and went over one by one what their duties and plans of action would be.

As an example, a command center would be established and resources allocated to fight the fire. The Sheriff and emergency personnel would begin a mandatory evacuation of the Blakes Ranch area. People with special medical needs such as wheel chairs are identified by the health department and given extra help during the evacuation. There would even be ar-

rangements made to place evacuated livestock at the fairgrounds.

Other groups and agencies would also be involved during the fire and afterwards in various roles from disconnection and restoration of electrical services, to health and safety issues for the population. All these groups were at the meeting and gave reports on their roles and responsibilities.

The planning is detailed with much coordination needed among agencies, which is the main reason these types of "Table Top" simulations are so important, says Morrow County Planner Carla McLane. The planning department organized the simulation and McLane says a National Hazardous Mitigation plan was adopted in 2006, and recently updated as required. "The intent is to make sure we are prepared to meet a hazard like a wildfire." McLane also points out that the interaction, cooperation and networking done by all the agencies is important, and can be used for other types of emergencies that may come up, not just wildfires.

Local students compete in math contest




Nathan Ellsworth, John Lindsay, Delilah Saucedo and Claire Lindsay placed in the top three at the district math contest. -Contributed photo.

Students from Heppner, Irrigon and Boardman competed in the district math contest at Riverside Jr/Sr High School in Boardman on Apr. 19.

Four Heppner students placed in the top three for their grade levels in the

contest. Third grader Claire Lindsay placed third, fourth grader Delilah Saucedo placed second, fifth grader John Lindsay tied for third place and sixth grader Nathan Ellsworth took first place.



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